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CORRECTION ISSUED

FROM: MOSCOW-CORRECTED PAGE 1

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1686, FEBRUARY 25, 1 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1686, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON PRIORITY 322,
PARIS 294, BONN 213, BERLIN 120.

AT TIME OF UAR AND BRIT RECEPTIONS LAST NIGHT NONE OF US HAD SEEN FULL TEXT OF KHRUSHCHEV'S REMARKS. I BEGAN CONVERSATION WITH KOSYGIN BY ASKING WHETHER IT WERE TRUE KHRUSHCHEV HAD REJECTED OUR PROPOSAL FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AND HAD SUGGESTED SUMMIT CONF INSTEAD. HE SAID THIS WAS TRUE AND THAT WE HAD TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF TWO GERMANY'S. WHEN I OBSERVED THAT IN OUR OPINION EAST GERMAN REGIME DID NOT REPRESENT GERMAN PEOPLE HE REPLIED WE WERE MISTAKEN IN THIS VIEW AND THAT EVIDENTLY I HAD NOT VISITED EAST GERMANY AS HE HAD. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH MANY PEOPLE THERE INCLUDING FACTORY WORKERS AND THAT RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING CONDITIONS HAD HAD GREAT EFFECT ON THEM. HE POINTED OUT GERMANS WERE ABOVE ALL OTHERS A MATERIALISTIC PEOPLE AND IF THEY HAD GOOD LIVING CONDITIONS THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED. WHEN I MENTIONED REFUGEES HE SAID THERE WERE NOW VERY FEW. I REPLIED THIS DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH MY INFO. HE MENTIONED SOVS DESIRE TO GET ON WITH SEVEN YEAR PLAN AND THOUGHT A GENERAL SETTLEMENT WAS NECESSARY BUT COULD NOT BE REACHED IN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. IF FOREIGN MINISTERS TACKLED THIS PROBLEM THEY WOULD STILL BE TALKING 5 YEARS FROM NOW. I SAID THAT SOVS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT AS THERE HAD BEEN NO DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN TO JUSTIFY SOVIET INITIATIVE. HE REPLIED THAT BERLIN SITUATION HAS LONG BEEN UNSATISFACTORY. I SAID I THOUGHT PRESENT

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-2- 1686, FEBRUARY 25, 1 PM, FROM MOSCOW.

SITUATION WAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. GERMANS MIGHT BE MATERIALISTIC BUT THEY WERE ALSO NATIONALISTIC AND IT WAS ABNORMAL TO EXPECT COUNTRY LIKE GERMANY TO REMAIN DIVIDED. HE SAID THIS MIGHT BE TRUE BUT A UNITED GERMANY MIGHT BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS AND IN THIS CONNECTION REFERRED TO NEGOTIATIONS ON ATOMIC TESTING IN GENEVA. IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS BROKE DOWN ONE MUST EXPECT THAT GERMANS WOULD SOONER OR LATER HAVE ATOMIC WEAPONS AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES A UNITED GERMANY WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS FOR PEACE OF WORLD. AT THIS POINT OUR CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED.

AT BRIT RECEPTION WHICH FOLLOWED THAT OF UAR I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR ONLY EXCHANGE OF FEW WORDS WITH SELWYN LLOYD. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF THE BRIT ADVISERS APPEARED STUNNED BY KHRUSHCHEV'S SPEECH, LLOYD OBSERVED THAT KHRUSHCHEV HAD NOT APPARENTLY SAID ANYTHING NEW. I POINTED OUT THAT TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF TALKS WITH MACMILLAN AND OUR NOTE, SPEECH SEEMED TO ME HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT.

I UNDERSTAND FROM BRIT ADVISERS THAT NO MENTION OF NON-AGGRESSION PACT HAD BEEN MADE IN TALKS THEMSELVES ALTHOUGH SOME REF TO IT WAS APPARENTLY MADE BY GROMYKO IN PROPOSING A TOAST. KHRUSHCHEV'S PUBLIC ADVOCACY THIS PROPOSAL SEEMS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS MACMILLAN.

WHILE I HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY OR REFLECT ON KHRUSHCHEV'S REMARKS IT APPEARS TO ME THAT HE HAS PUT MACMILLAN IN VERY DIFFICULT SPOT. HE APPARENTLY BELIEVES HE CAN EXPLOIT FACT THAT MACMILLAN WILL SOON BE FACED WITH ELECTIONS AND WILL WISH HIS VISIT TO END ON PLEASANT NOTE THEREBY AUTOMATICALLY GAINING BY IMPLICATION SOME ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION PUT FORWARD IN KHRUSHCHEV SPEECH. I TOLD HUMBOLD LAST NIGHT THAT MY FIRST REACTION WAS THAT GREATEST CONTRIBUTION MACMILLAN COULD MAKE TO PEACE WOULD BE TO PACK-UP AND GO HOME IMMEDIATELY OR

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ALTERNATIVELY TO ANSWER KHRUSHCHEV IN KIND WHEN HE MAKES HIS PROJECTED TELEVISION SPEECH.

FRENCH AMB ASKED GROMYKO WHETHER WE WOULD RECEIVE ANSWER TO OUR NOTE OR WHETHER THIS WAS COVERED BY KHRUSHCHEV'S SPEECH. GROMYKO REPLIED SPEECH WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BUT HE THOUGHT WE WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE FORMAL REPLY.

THOMPSON

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